IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended)   A <u>computer-implemented</u> method of reconciling records of resource consumption at a plurality of resource consumption sites ~~for incorporation into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at a target site~~, the <u>computer-implemented</u> method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

<u>programming a specific processor with computer-executable instructions that, when executed, perform the steps of</u>:

a.   collecting and recording resource consumption at <u>multiple</u> resource consumption sites, wherein the resource consumption is a consumption of electricity that is transmitted through ~~a transmission system~~ <u>resource consumption feeders that serve</u> ~~and wherein the transmission system serves~~ multiple types of electricity generation companies<u>, and wherein the electricity generation companies supply electricity to the resource consumption sites</u>;

b.   reconciling records of resource consumption between the resource consumption sites ~~and the target site~~ <u>and multiple electricity generation companies</u> by:

    i.   retrieving records from the resource consumption [[feeder]] <u>sites</u> and interim control points <u>on the resource consumption feeders, wherein the resource consumption feeders are electric power lines coming from the multiple electricity generation companies</u>;

    ii.   comparing ~~at least one of~~:
       ~~(a) resource consumption totals in the records from the resource consumption feeders with resource consumption totals [[in the]] from aggregated records at the~~ <u>resource consumption sites</u> ~~target site, and~~
       ~~(b)~~ a first total number of resource consumption records forwarded from the resource consumption feeders with a second total number of resource consumption records aggregated at the <u>resource consumption sites</u> ~~target site~~;

    iii.   issuing a notification, if an error is discovered <u>during at least one of the comparing steps</u>; and

    iv.   if no errors are detected <u>during at least one of the comparing steps,</u>

continuing comparing records until all records are reconciled; and

c. aggregating the records of resource consumption into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the resource consumption sites ~~target site~~.

2. (currently amended)   The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein ~~the aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site comprise billing records~~ the records from the resource consumption sites and the interim control points comprise an audit scope identifier, wherein the audit scope identifier describes a time and date of a next scheduled reconciliation of the records of resource consumption at the resource consumption feeders and the resource consumption sites.

3. (currently amended)   The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the electricity generating companies each use a different billing structure, and wherein the computer-implemented method further comprises:

providing a reconciliation of records between the resource consumption sites and the interim control points to a specific billing structure that is used by a particular electricity generating company. ~~further comprising aggregating reconciled records of resource consumption into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site.~~

4. (currently amended)   The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the records from the resource consumption sites and the interim control points comprise a unique key, wherein the unique key is composed of a SystemID, an AppInstanceID, and a RefRequest, wherein the SystemID identifies a transmission system of a particular electricity provider, wherein the AppInstanceID identifies a particular feeder line used by that particular electricity provider, and wherein the AppInstanceID identifies a set of resource records used on that particular feeder line for that particular electricity provider during a specifically defined period of time. ~~further comprising aggregating all records of resource consumption into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site and thereafter reconciling the aggregated records at the target site.~~

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended)   The <u>computer-implemented</u> method of claim 1, further comprising reconciling resource consumption records in a reconciliation session by:

    a.   logging a reconciliation session start time of a reconciliation session,

    b.   retrieving a last reconciliation session start time,

    c.   issuing a notification of a logging session status,

    d.   ending the reconciliation session if an error is discovered; and

    e.   if no errors are detected, continuing comparing records until all records are reconciled, issuing a report, and logging session status.

7. (currently amended)   The <u>computer-implemented</u> method of claim 1, wherein the multiple types of electricity generation companies <u>are electricity suppliers that</u> include a coal fired company, a gas fired company, a hydroelectric company, and a wind turbine company.

8. (currently amended)   The <u>computer-implemented</u> method of claim 1, further comprising:

automatically reconciling resource consumption records at feeder sub systems, nodes, interim nodes and billing subsystems that are located between the resource consumption <u>feeders and the resource consumption sites.</u> ~~sites and the target site.~~

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended)   The <u>computer-implemented</u> method of claim 2, wherein the aggregate business records are chosen from the group consisting of transfer records, invoices, and units of resource consumption.

11. (currently amended)   A processor system configured and controlled for reconciling resource consumption records, said processor <u>system</u> being between a plurality of resource consumption sites and a resource consumption record aggregation target site, <u>said processor system designed</u> for ~~incorporation~~ <u>incorporating resource consumption at the resource consumption record aggregation target site</u> into aggregate business records<u>, said processor system comprising:</u> ~~of the resource~~

~~consumption at the target site, by a process comprising the steps of:~~

    a.   <u>collecting and recording logic for</u> collecting and recording resource consumption at resource consumption sites, wherein the resource consumption is a consumption of gaseous hydrocarbons being transferred internally <u>for refining</u> within an integrated petrochemical refinery;<u> and</u>

    b.   <u>an automated reconciliation sub system for</u> reconciling records of resource consumption between the resource consumption sites and the <u>resource consumption record aggregation</u> target site by:

        i.   retrieving records from the resource consumption feeder and interim control points;

        ii.   comparing ~~at least one of:~~

        ~~(a) resource consumption totals in the records from resource consumption feeders with the resource consumption totals in aggregated records at the target site, and~~

        ~~(b)~~ a first total number of resource consumption records forwarded from the resource consumption feeders with a second total number of resource consumption records aggregated at the <u>resource consumption record aggregation</u> target site;

        iii.   issuing a notification, if an error is discovered; and

        iv.   if no errors are detected, continuing comparing records until all records are reconciled~~; and~~

    ~~c.   aggregating records of resource consumption into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site.~~

12. (previously presented)   The processor system of claim 11, <u>further comprising:</u>

    <u>a first interim system coupled to the resource consumption feeders;</u>

    <u>a second interim system coupled to a set of billing systems used by multiple providers of the gaseous hydrocarbons being transferred within the integrated petrochemical refinery; and</u>

    <u>a firewall between the first interim system and the second interim system, wherein the firewall controls access between the resource consumption feeders and the set of billing systems used by the multiple providers.</u> ~~processor system of claim 11, wherein the aggregate business~~

~~records of the resource consumption at the target site comprise billing records.~~

13. (currently amended)   The processor system of claim 11, wherein a reconciliation process comprises aggregating reconciled records of resource consumption into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the <u>resource consumption record aggregation</u> target site.

14. (currently amended)   The processor system of claim 11, wherein a reconciliation process comprises aggregating the records of resource consumption into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site, and thereafter reconciling the aggregate business records at the <u>resource consumption record aggregation</u> target site.

15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented)   The processor system of claim 11 wherein a reconciliation process comprises reconciling the records in a reconciliation session by:

    a.   logging a reconciliation session start time of a reconciliation session,

    b.   retrieving a last reconciliation session start time,

    c.   issuing a notification of a logging session status,

    d.   ending the reconciliation session if an error is discovered; and

    e.   if no errors are detected, continuing comparing records until all records are reconciled, issuing a report, and logging session status.

17-19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented)   The processor system of claim 12, wherein the aggregate business records are chosen from the group consisting of transfer records, invoices, and units of resource consumption.

21. (currently amended)   A ~~signal-bearing~~ <u>storage</u> medium tangibly embodying a program of

machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing system to reconcile records of resource consumption at a plurality of resource consumption sites for incorporation into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at a target site, by a method comprising the steps of:

a.   collecting and recording resource consumption at ~~flowing~~ resource consumption sites, wherein the resource consumption is asphalt that is transferred internally <u>for processing</u> within units of an integrated petroleum refinery;

b.   reconciling records of resource consumption between the resource consumption sites and the target site by:

i.   retrieving records from the resource consumption feeder and interim control points;

ii.   comparing ~~at least one of:~~

~~(a) resource consumption totals in the records from resource consumption feeders with resource consumption totals in aggregated records at the target site, and~~

~~(b)~~ a first total number of resource consumption records forwarded from the resource consumption feeders with a second total number of resource consumption records aggregated at the target site;

iii.   issuing a notification, if an error is discovered; and

iv.   if no errors are detected, continuing comparing records until all records are reconciled; and

c.   aggregating records of resource consumption into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site.

22. (currently amended)   The ~~signal-bearing~~ <u>storage</u> medium of claim 21, wherein the aggregate business records of the ~~flowing~~ resource consumption at the target site comprise billing records.

23. (currently amended)   The ~~signal-bearing~~ <u>storage</u> medium of claim 21, wherein the method comprises aggregating reconciled records of resource consumption into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site.

24. (currently amended)   The ~~signal-bearing~~ storage medium of claim 21, wherein the method comprises aggregating the records of resource consumption into aggregate business records of the resource consumption at the target site and thereafter reconciling the aggregated records at the target site.

25. (currently amended)   The ~~signal-bearing~~ storage medium of claim 21, wherein the method comprises reconciling the records in a reconciliation session comprising

    a.   logging a reconciliation session start time of a reconciliation session,

    b.   retrieving a last reconciliation session start time,

    c.   issuing a notification of a logging session status,

    d.   ending the reconciliation session if an error is discovered; and

    e.   if no errors are detected, continuing comparing records until all records are reconciled, issuing a report, and logging session status.

26-27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended)   The ~~signal-bearing~~ storage medium of claim 21, further comprising:

    automatically reconciling resource consumption records at feeder sub systems, nodes, interim nodes and billing subsystems that are located between the resource consumption sites and the target site.

29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended)   The ~~signal-bearing~~ storage medium of claim 22, wherein the aggregate business records are chosen from the group consisting of transfer records, invoices, and units of resource consumption.